

IN THE CLAIMS:

3. (Amended) A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the ordering means is arranged to monitor stock levels of items in the vending device and a remote supplier can ascertain the stock level from the ordering means, whereby to enable the supplier to maintain the stock of the vending device.

4. (Amended) A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the ordering means is resident on the computer system and the vending device operates as a peripheral controlled by the computer system.

5. (Amended) A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the computer system is a proprietary computer system, such as LAN, Intranet or Enterprise system.

6. (Amended) A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the vending device is arranged to receive articles for recycling and the ordering means is arranged to track items being placed in the vending device for recycling and advise the remote supplier.

7. (Amended) A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the system includes means for enabling remote payment for items ordered by a user.

8. (Amended) A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the vending device includes sensor means arranged to sense when an item is dispensed.

9. (Amended) A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the vending device is arranged to dispense the item on receipt of an identification means from the user.

12. (Amended) A system in accordance with claim 7, wherein the vending device includes a key pad arranged to operate in a secure mode for entering data required for remote payment and in a non-secure mode for entry of other data.

15. (Amended) A vending device in accordance with claim 13, wherein the control means is arranged to communicate with a remote location in response to an operator requiring access to the vending device, for a vending function, to ask permission from the remote location for access.

18. (Amended) A computer system in accordance with claim 16, wherein the ordering means includes means for controlling the operation of the vending device as a peripheral of the computer system.

21. (Amended) A vending device in accordance with claim 13, wherein the control means enables operation of the vending device as a peripheral of a computer system.